

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 PC-15 USIA-12 PER-05 PRS-01 RSC-01

RSR-01 /069 W

----- 042684

R 101207Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2830

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL BUKAVU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KAMPALA 2235

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC PFOR UG US APER

SUBJECT: DETENTION OF PCV'S AT ENTEBBE

REF: STATE 134079 (NOTAL)

1. WE ALL APPRECIATE SENTIMENTS EXPRESSED REFTEL. CREDIT FOR POSITIVE OUTCOME IS DUE TO:

- (A) FINE STAFF OF THIS EMBASSY;
- (B) EFFORTS MOUNTED AT A NUMBER OF AF POSTS;
- (C) UNDERSTANDING SUPPORT FROM DEPARTMENT;
- (D) GOOD LUCK.

2. KEY TO SOLUTION WAS, OF COURSE, MESSAGE FROM MOBUTU DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR MUKAMBA TO ETIANG/AMIN. IMPROVEMENT IN CONDITIONS OF DETENTION (MOVE TO HOTEL) WAS APPARENTLY RESULT OF INTERVENTION OF LT. COL. LEE, AMIN'S PILOT, WHO HAD ACCESS TO GENERAL AND WAS WILLING TO TELL HIM TO DO THE RIGHT THING.

3. I WISH TO COMMEND ESPECIALLY TO DEPARTMENT OUTSTANDING JOB DONE BY FOUR EMBASSY OFFICERS--BURROWS, BARCAS, RINGDAHL AND CANNING (LAST-NAMED OF USIS)--WHO TOOK TURNS STAYING WITH PCV'S, FIRST AT TRANSIT LOUNGE AND THEN AT LAKE VIC, DURING THE SOME 53-1/2 HOURS WE WERE INVOLVED WITH THEM. THEIR
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COUNSELING AND MORALE-BOOSTING EFFORTS WERE MATERIALLY

RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING UP THE GOOD SPIRITS OF THE VOLUNTEERS, KEEPING THEM OUT OF TROUBLE, AND MAINTAINING THE WHOLE SHOW ON A MORE OR LESS EVEN KEEL.

4. WISH PEACE CORPS TO KNOW THAT ALL OF THE 110 KIDS AND ONE MIDDLE-AGED GENTLEMAN WERE MAGNIFICENT THROUGHOUT. THEY KEPT SMILING, LAUGHING, SINGING, DANCING. MOST LOOKED ON THEIR SITUATION AS AN ADVENTURE, SOMETHING TO TELL TO THEIR GRAND-CHILDREN (WHO, IT IS MY FOND HOPE, WILL NEVER HAVE HEARD OF GENERAL IDI AMIN).

5. HAVE NOT MENTIONED THIS BEFORE, BUT AS DEPARTMENT AND PEACE CORPS AWARE, SOME OF THESE PCV'S ARE OF JEWISH FAITH. THEY WERE FULLY COGNIZANT OF GENERAL AMIN'S WELL-ADVERTISED PARANOIA ABOUT ZIONISTS, ISRAELIS, JEWS. SOME OF THEM SUFFERED ANXIETIES, BUT MAINLY BECAUSE THEY WORRIED THEIR PARENTS WOULD BE OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR WELFARE. I ARRANGED FOR ONE, FROM FLATBUSH, BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, TO BE INTERVIEWED (TAPED) OVER PHONE BY WOR, HOPING HIS REASSURANCES MIGHT REACH SOME OF THESE PARENTS, INDIRECTLY AT LEAST.
KEELEY

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